

## Repentance: The Difficult Step

Ezra 9 ended with a problem and a prayer. Many in the nation had married foreign wives, which was a violation of God's law. Ezra prays. As the final chapter begins, Ezra continues in prayer.

### Ezra's Reaction to the Problem

- Pray
- Confess
- Weep

A large crowd gathers and they weep bitterly

*"There comes a time when God's people need to stop laughing and start weeping and confessing" - Warren Weirsbe  
James 4:9-10*

The reaction of the crowd illustrated that they sided with God and not the disobedient.

### A. Shecaniah comes up with a plan (10:2)

1. It is possible that his own \_\_\_\_\_ was guilty (10:26)
2. He is \_\_\_\_\_ in his assessment and \_\_\_\_\_ in the outcome
3. They will \_\_\_\_\_ the foreign wives and children (10:3)

### B. The proposal was favorable to Ezra and a called gathering was ordered (10:4-8)

1. serious consequences would take place if anyone didn't come (10:8)
2. the gathering took place in heavy rain (10:9)
3. an investigation was conducted about the marriages (10:14,16)
4. a listing of 110 names of the guilty ends the book

#### The way back to God always involves:

- Confession and prayer: R\_\_\_\_\_
- Constitution to do what is right: R\_\_\_\_\_
- Carrying out the steps to do what is right: R\_\_\_\_\_



*It's easy to pull nails out of a board, it is impossible to pull the holes out of a board.*

### C. Understanding Biblical Repentance

1. God demands repentance (2 Pet 3:9; Luke 13:3)
    - sometimes a congregation must repent (Rev 2:5)
    - The "Three Rs of Repentance"
- R\_\_\_\_\_, R\_\_\_\_\_, R\_\_\_\_\_ what was right

#### 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

- Repentance is not having others finding out
- Repentance involves more than feeling \_\_\_\_\_ or saying "I'm \_\_\_\_\_"
- Repentance is more than \_\_\_\_\_ the sin
- Repentance is based upon hurting God and a turn without \_\_\_\_\_

*Judas was sorry for what he had done. He returned the money. Yet he didn't repent Biblically.*

*Peter was sorry for what he had done. He wept bitterly. He did repent Biblically.*

### Lessons

1. This lesson ought to teach us what about marriage?
2. In a marriage that is not Biblically right, the solution is what?
3. What does God say about divorce?
4. Why does repentance come before baptism (Acts 2:38)?
5. Why is repentance so hard?